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ABSTRACT

Drawing on research from a number of European countries, the contributors to this book present nine detailed studies on women's work spanning 2 centuries and dealing with a variety of work environments. "General Introduction" (Gertjan de Groot, Marlou Schrover) provides an overview of the book's content. "Frames of Reference: Skill, Gender, and New Technology in the Hosiery Industry" (Harriet Bradley) explores the processes that lie behind the devaluation of women's work. "The Creation of a Gendered Division of Labour in the Danish Textile Industry" (Marianne Rostgard) describes how the division of labor once established lived on to become an unquestioned tradition. "Foreign Technology and the Gender Division of Labour in a Dutch Cotton Spinning Mill" (Gertjan de Groot) argues that the gender division of labor was transferred from England to the Netherlands along with the technology. "'The Mysteries of the Typewriter': Technology and Gender in the British Civil Service, 1870-1914" (Meta Zimmeck) draws on the feminist critique of the literature to explore the introduction and spread of typewriting before the First World War. "'A Revolution in the Workplace'? Women's Work in Munitions Factories and Technological Change 1914-1918" (Deborah Thom) examines the theory of dilution and substitution. "Gender and Technological Change in the North Staffordshire Pottery Industry" (Jacqueline Sarsby) examines factors that influenced and altered the sexual division of labor. "Periodization and the Engendering of Technology: The Pottery of Gustavsberg, Sweden, 1880-1980" (Ulla Wikander) seeks to establish general trends and specific periods for changes. "Creating Gender: Technology and Femininity in the Swedish Dairy Industry" (Lena Sommestad) explores how women retained for so long but eventually lost their control over mechanized dairy production. "Cooking Up Women's Work: Women Workers in the Dutch Food Industries 1889-1960" (Marlou Schrover) shows technological change influenced women's work but was seldom the direct reason for the regendering of work. An index is appended. (YLB)